

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

FEELING IN RUSSIA.

From the London Times, Dec. 5.

It is not true, as has been stated on *assumption*,^a of authority, that "the brief and conclusive note" from the Emperor of Russia to the French and English Government has cut short all further negotiation, and referred the decision of the Eastern question to the fortune of war. No such communication has reached this country.^b The effect produced in Russia, and especially on the mind of the Emperor Nicholas, by the telegrams received during the past month from his frontier provinces and the Caucasus, is still imperfectly known to the rest of Europe, though it is of crucial importance to any estimate which may be formed of the character of the war. Our own correspondence from St. Petersburg and Warsaw extends to the 20th of November, and, although in those open circles little is referred to war, which conveys an impression of doubt or perplexity on the part of the Government, it is clear that the aspect of affairs is viewed there with extreme anxiety and apprehension. The Emperor himself appears to have been alternately irritated and depressed— annoyed by the evident failure of his intended military expeditions, and fatigued by the accumulation of measures undertaken to carry on the war on a grand scale, or to give a lasting peace. He finds himself, indeed, in a position of unequalled difficulty and embarrassment. The troops which he has hitherto dispatched across his frontiers to overtake the Porte by their mere presence have as yet been defeated on every occasion on which they have come into collision with the enemy. The Russians themselves acknowledge a loss of 1,500 men killed, wounded and missing, in their encounters with the Turks on the Danube and among the numerous General Pavlov, commanding the artillery, gave ten thousand men to the Army on the Asiatic frontier against the Turks. The first incident of the war, however, the capture of a fort named after the patron saint of the Czar himself, has struck a superstitious gloom into the army and the Russian people, and is regarded as a most ominous omen. Prince Vorontzow's dispatch, giving an account of the capture of this fort—St. Nicholas—was certainly not calculated to diminish the impression produced by such a defeat; and subsequent reports by the Turks of five attempts to retake this place, the character of the climate, at the same time, the Russian summer, the Fouloukli, with its heat, the ice of the Bosphorus, that it is said, which caused Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople on his retreat, remain, as far as we can learn, the same, it is said, as when he left. Poland only asks to be allowed to do what does not cause its most cruel enemies; its most cherished wishes do not win them their rank. It desires that all may be prospered to God and happy in their respective homes, but it is up to God to grant it. It shares in the general peace and prosperity; it desires to peace to the world, and especially to its oppressors, that it is more for their advantage to have a peaceful and useful neighborhood. Prince Poniatowski, who was captured in his camp in subject by soldiers, the systematic eradication of everything that can serve as a basis for social order, the religious spirit itself included.

"We cannot yet trace the destinies of Poland, which he had demoted have not reached him; his communications by sea and land are threatened or cut off; and, to complete the misfortune of the Empire, it appears by the last account that Prince Poniatowski, who may be regarded as the most distinguished in the empire, and has shown great ability in his administration of Southern Russia, is equally, and even dangerously ill.

If the Emperor Nicholas turns his thoughts westward, he finds there no grounds of confidence or satisfaction. Exactly a year ago he was united by the closest ties to the leading States of Central Europe and to this country. His new converts were the intimate friends of the exiled between his self and the Polish Powers; and the communication of the momentous news for the claim he urged to your confidence. The post I occupy is one that cannot be disputed, for I feel that I am used, and that no one could replace me at present, and that I alone am in a condition to lead the national cause with success, and the least possible danger or suffering to our country. Supported by the confidence of my fellow citizens, you will see me, gentlemen, when the hour strikes, hasten with my sons to where duty calls me; and I will not shrink from devoting the rest of my life to the cause through which I have existed. My hair is white, but the blood in my veins is warm; and believe me this white head, while a breath of life remains, will be foremost wherever the needs, the honor, the glory of Poland call."

SWEDEN.

OPENING OF THE DIET.

The following is a translation of the King of Sweden's speech on the opening of the Diet:

"GENTLEMEN: In the course of the time which has elapsed since the last meeting of the Diet, Providence has exposed me and my house to a cruel trial, and the inhabitants of the United Kingdoms have deplored with the common affliction of the sympathy which my faithful subjects testified on that occasion, and of the sincere affection of which, in the course of a long and serious illness, I received the most touching and precious proofs, can never be effaced from my grateful heart, and it will still further serve to cement the sacredness of the bonds which bind me to the generous inhabitants of the Scandinavian Peninsula. The Almighty has meanwhile deigned to give us a fresh proof of His divine goodness by the birth of my grand children. The probability of the succession to the throne, which is the result of this fact, is a rich source of satisfaction and gratitude.

A dangerous epidemic has again ravaged the kingdom, but the people of Sweden have been calm and resigned to the decrees of Providence.

Our relations with all the foreign Powers continue to bear the stamp of mutual amity and confidence. I shall not cease to devote my constant solicitude to the maintenance of our country's independence and most sacred interests.

Agriculture, the most important branch of our industry, has within the last years made the most satisfactory progress. The recent harvests which we have gathered have not, however, given a corresponding augmentation to the general wealth. Wasted to a great extent by the fabrication of liquor, the abuse of which threatens to undermine the most noble faculties of the population, these various causes of consumption from foreign countries, which the wealth of our country might supply in plenty, even beyond the wants of our native consumption. Gentlemen, it is time to pave the way to results which are more conformable to the public good. All good citizens are in this respect animated by a sentiment which is as noble as it is patriotic. I have received numerous petitions from all parts of the country, entreating me to check the disastrous effects of the manufacture of spirituous liquors, and, indeed, I shall submit to you a proposition tending to effect that purpose, and I am confident that you will be eager to meet my paternal intentions.

Your attention will be claimed by the measures necessary to regulate the simplification of the property tax, in conformity with the general principles adopted by the other Powers.

In the first instance, our care should be devoted to the management of creating a successive development of our material resources, of promoting the growth of the various branches of our industry, of improving our means of communication according to the exigencies of the age, and of creating fresh sources of subsistence and comfort for our ever increasing population. In the proposals which will be submitted to you, you will find fresh proofs of my solicitude for these objects, and I rely on your enlightened cooperation to insure the adoption of a definite solution.

I am anxious, however, to give you a proposition tending to effect that purpose, and I am confident that you will be eager to meet my paternal intentions.

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